GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1423
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2005
IMPLEMENTATION OF DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for strict implementation of the provisions of Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 in the wake of Supreme Court's directions;

(b) whether the Government has issued necessary guidelines to State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to post dowry Prohibition Officer in compliance of the directions of Supreme Court; and

(e) by when decision regarding compulsory furnishing of information regarding dowry by the Government employees will be enforced?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH)

(a),(b)&(c) Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development has written to the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories on 24.5.2005 requesting full compliance with the following directions contained in the judgement dated 2nd May, 2005 of the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 499/1997 in the matter of 'Re-enforcement and Implementation of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961':-

(1) Take effective steps to implement the provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 with particular reference to sections 3 and 4 thereof (giving, taking, abetting the giving or taking of dowry and demanding dowry) and the various rules framed thereunder. Ensure that the list of presents given at the time of marriage is maintained by the bride and bride groom as per the provisions of the rules framed under the Act. Activate the Dowry Prohibition Officers in the process.

(2) Examine whether appropriate rules cannot be framed for compelling males seeking government employment to furnish information on whether they had taken dowry and if taken, whether the same has been made over the wife as contemplated by section 6 of the Act and whether such information could be called from those already in employment.

(3) Take steps to effectively step up the Anti Dowry Literacy among people through Lok Adalats, Radio Broadcasts, Television and Newspapers.

(4) Devise means to create honest, efficient and committed machinery for the purpose of implementation of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and the various Rules framed thereunder.

(d) As per the information available with the Department of Women and Child Development, almost all the State Governments have appointed Dowry Prohibition Officers. One of the directions issued in the aforesaid judgement of the Supreme Court, which have been taken up with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, calls for activation of the Dowry Prohibition Officers.

(e) In so far as the Central Government employees are concerned, the matter is under the consideration of the Department of Personnel and Training in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice.